



Liquidambar Removal Program

Frequently Asked Questions



Q. When will my liquidambar street tree be removed?

- A. The City's fiscal year cycle begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following year. Tree removals, stumping and replanting are completed throughout the entire fiscal year cycle. Notification will be given to you in the form of a door hanger notice two weeks before any work is to be done. All three steps may not happen at the same time and can happen several months apart.

Q. Do I have to agree to a replacement tree?

- A. Yes. Applicants are required to replace the removed liquidambar street tree with a 15-gallon size replacement tree. If there is a concern about watering a replacement tree, applications can be moved to the next following year wait list. All the City Council approved requirements for the Liquidambar Removal Program can be found online at Trees.inSunnyvale.com.

Q. Can I choose my replacement tree?

The City Arborist determines what species will be used depending on a number of factors including nearby street tree species, vertical clearance (power lines), underground utilities, low water use, resistance to disease and others. Replacement trees for the Liquidambar Removal Program are typically a similar species in size and nature to a liquidambar tree such as Red Maple and Shumardi Oak. Notification of the tree species for your location will be provided when the tree removal permit and tree watering agreement is signed by the home owner. If you do not prefer the chosen species, then you may select from two other choices that will be provided by the City Arborist,

Q. Do I have to water my replacement street tree?

- A. Yes. Applicants are required to water their replacement street tree for the first three years and report any issues with their street tree by calling (408) 730-7506 or via email at parks@sunnyvale.ca.gov.

Q. I'm concerned about the drought, how much water does a new street tree require?

- A. During its first year after planting, a new street tree needs 5 to 10 gallons of water weekly to maintain the overall health of the tree. That means a new tree will require 260-520 gallons of water the first year after it is planted at a yearly cost of \$5 or less. In comparison, a single toilet flush uses at least 1.5 gallons of water or more, so a new tree could be watered each week using the water for only 3 to 6 flushes.

Q. There are roots that are growing in my front yard, will the City remove them?

- A. The City does not provide root services. When the stump is removed it will be ground down to 6" below the soil surface in a diameter that is 2-3 times the diameter of the tree trunk depending upon the size of the trunk and site conditions. Any remaining roots are the responsibility of the property owner.